KSTP-TV-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE -9:58 P.M -11:11 P.M (8-2-2007)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w)

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From Thursday, August 2nd, 2007 KSTP-TV (ABC) Live coverage of the I-35W Bridge collapse over the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, MN

- The Collapse occurred at 6:05 P.M, injuring 145 people and killing 13.
- Coverage runs from 9:58 P.M - 11:11 P.M

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[Music] this is 5 eyewitness news at 10. we can never be prepared for something as horrendous as this she's a sweet girl and everybody loved her kept calling her cell phone constantly and just trying to get a hold of her in nothing more than 24 hours later the realization of what happened is just beginning very struck at how sobered everyone around here is by what has happened tonight as lives are remembered and victims killed in the bridge collapse are mourned she's a fighter my wife's a fighter questions are mounting a bridge in america just shouldn't fall down and thanks for joining us tonight for continuing coverage on the 35 w bridge collapse i'm john mason i'm cindy brucato tonight we're getting our first look as the faces of the victims emerge four people killed in the collapse identified today our reporters are ready with important information for you tonight leigh mclean working alongside those still waiting for word on their missing loved one steve shaw with the complicated recovery efforts investigative reporter christy peele did some digging into other metro bridge inspection records but first beth jett with the victims families in their own words beth cindy the impact of this disaster is really just starting to set in when you see the faces of those victims raging in age from 29 to 60 each leaving behind young children and grieving communities in minneapolis the gathering of people who knew artemio trinidad madrid at new york plaza produce where he worked he was very happy always looking at everything in a positive in a good way the 29 year old father of four spoke to his wife just a half hour before he plunged into the water in his pickup truck which initially caught fire after the bridge collapsed at around 5 30 5 35 he left the company and right around that time she says that he

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right around that time she says that he called her to let her know that he's not heading home to my surprise i woke up this morning to find out that he was in the accident then there is patrick holmes a 36 year old father of two children four and six years old his wife tells us she suspected he was gone when he didn't come home from work in bloomington last night she's a sweet girl that everybody loved her liz ewing found out today her classmate at the aveda institute 32 year old julia blackhawk died after leaving work to go home to savage yesterday we said bye you know have a good day and it's really the last i saw her she says julia leaves behind two boys ages eight and nine and then there's the sixty-year-old mother whose husband had hoped she would fight and survive sheri lou engenbretson of shoreview didn't make it her family left now to find comfort in her great faith in god and perhaps this is just the beginning because bear in mind there are still dozens missing and presumed dead live in minneapolis beth jett 5 eyewitness news beth others tonight are still waiting for word hoping their missing loved ones will still make a a miracle connection with them and let them know they're okay leah mclean has spent the past day talking with families of victims and also with

those who are still unaccounted for leah john it's been most difficult for some of the people who just have been sitting around here today waiting because they don't know they don't know if their loved ones are missing they don't know if they're the ones who didn't survive and it's just been so difficult for them waiting and not knowing we spoke to one man who's still just trying to find out what happened to his girlfriend she's a glowing person a million dollar smile she teaches greek dance at st mary's greek orthodox church and that's where she was going before the bridge accident happened christina secorifis called a friend and said she was stuck in traffic on 35w she said she'd be late getting to church but she never made it to church i frankly tried calling again and again called other friends to see if they had

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called other friends to see if they had seen her or talked to her i went to the hospitals and checked and i still haven't heard from her he's among the many desperate family members getting updates from the red cross and still holding on to hope their loved ones will be found alive i'm hoping that maybe somebody had spotted her or took her to a different hospital a smaller hospital or is helping her there are still 20 to 30 people considered missing tonight i just spoke with the red cross about a half hour ago they tell me they have helped more than 1200 people those are family members those are loved ones who are trying to get some information they're still out there helping people tonight trying to make sure that everybody can connect with their loved ones and find out what all has happened reporting live in minneapolis along 35w liam mcclain five eyewitness news now on to the cause of the bridge collapse we've heard a lot of speculation from experts and lay people alive like rather who drove on the bridge about what caused it to collapse some people believe that it was heavy construction equipment that may have put too much stress on the bridge others reported feeling strong vibrations and the minutes leading up to it wondering if that could have been a warning sign here's what we do know we do know this the bridges center span was the first to drop that caused the ends to buckle to fold down and to collapse onto the shore of the river crews will be back out at sunrise tomorrow they're trying to recover bodies from the river it has been a painfully slow process for divers because safety is their main priority and steve shaw is live with that part of the story steve they're being careful not to put more lives at risk john while these dedicated dive and recovery teams didn't get the quick results the families of the still missing crave they say they still made some progress out there today we know what our job is and what our mission is so you can have to have patience with us to get the job done hennepin county sheriff rich stanick is engaged in the balancing act on the one hand he sees the faces on the

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on the one hand he sees the faces on the families of the missing on the other he knows that one wrong hasty move by a diver could mean a dead diver in addition to all of this well we know there are a number of vehicles both either submerged or partially submerged i don't have an exact number we don't know that for sure that's what the divers and side scan sonar are trying to locate for us side scan sonar like this unit found four debris fields thursday just downstream from the bridge collapse among the debris were two vehicles some construction scaffolding and something they haven't identified so far no more bodies but there's still a lot of diving and searching to do we're committed to this recovery operation and again bringing relief to the families that are grieving search boats and divers will be back out on that mississippi river as early as sunrise tomorrow morning folks there's still a large area to search there still could be several cars in that river and we all know what that could mean live in minneapolis steve shaw 5 eyewitness news that is a heart-wrenching sound a terrifying cry for help an emotional voicemail from a child on board that school bus calling for her mom just moments after the bridge collapsed beneath her we are happy to tell you now panic turned to joy jessica miles continuing our coverage talking with a mother and a daughter tonight both of them grateful the little girl is alive christine swift hasn't listened to this phone message until now her 10 year old daughter and 60 others returning from a field trip when their school bus drops some 40 feet

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when their school bus drops some 40 feet when the bridge gives way beneath them we're almost at the end of the bridge and everybody just heard this cracking noise we were all quiet and then we all just started falling everybody was crying and screaming nobody knew what was happening on instinct chaperone jeremy hernandez opened the back of the bus and began carrying students out i just moved my feet were just moving and my body was following kaley and the rest of the kids were taken to the red cross and then to various hospitals amid all the chaos it would be four hours before she was reunited with her mom scary thankful you know they 10 seconds later the bus would have been in the middle of the bridge i love you too my girl kaylee has a sore back but she's going to be ok her mom says she's in shock heartbroken about the loss of life yet thankful she was one of the lucky ones i think god was there and you know 60 kids on a bus that didn't end up in the river yeah he was looking over them definitely of the 61 people on board that school bus 14 were taken to the hospital last night and four still remain there two adults and two kids a fund has been set up to help with the medical bills for more information on that just go to our website kstp.com in the newsroom jessica miles 5 eyewitness news now to other survivors we're hearing more dramatic stories tonight some people waited over an hour to be rescued others fought the odds to save themselves glen barber live in minneapolis with how a saint paul woman conquered one of her greatest fears in the midst of this disaster glenn yeah john imagine being forced into the mississippi river here behind me when you don't know how to swim that's exactly what happened to one woman who first survived the fall and then managed to escape the water i didn't know i thought it was just illusion 26 year old tuivo didn't

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illusion 26 year old tuivo didn't realize the magnitude of the disaster as her minivan headed down the steep slope of the collapsed bridge i try to step on the brake and hold on steering wheel and and call my mom and pray rather than crash into the cars ahead of her vote veered into the mississippi river i screaming i'm yelling say help help i don't know how to swim help please help me i don't know how to swim but there was no one there to help and she feared she'd drown as her minivan began to sink i kicked a kick i don't know bo struggled to keep her head above water i thought i was going to die within minutes she managed to pull herself onto a concrete slab a moment caught on the front page of the paper she waited here for over an hour before a police officer carried her to safety i just gotta say that my wife is very brave beau's husband rocky didn't learn of his wife's brush with death until later ever since i watched tv and i watched a new one and i saw what happened that's when it really hit me that i'm lucky to be alive now tuivo escaped her frightening ordeal with just a few minor cuts and bruises in fact she was scheduled to be released from the hospital tonight reporting live in minneapolis i'm glenn barber five eyewitness news tuivo was rescued by people like the men and women who put their own lives on the line helping those who were trapped on the bridge now many of those first responders climb down onto the collapsed structure trying to get the stunned victims out of their car sometimes out of the water definitely to safety brad satin is here to share the stories of heroes lots of heroes cindy they are the men and women risking their lives to save others but if you ask them they'll downplay their role most aren't looking for publicity and while yesterday's catastrophe was no ordinary event the first responders will tell you they were just doing their jobs risking their lives we did what we had to do motivated by a sense of duty

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to do motivated by a sense of duty you're forced to make a decision and do we stand back and watch or do we take action from the firefighters on the edge of unstable concrete to divers risking currents strong enough to sweep them away to the man who with no safety net climbed down a 12-inch beam at a 60-degree angle to make a rescue it was nothing but twisted metal overhanging concrete you could hear the bridge creaking you could hear rivets popping and you heard the people on the on the span that was actually in the water crying for help firefighter shanna hansen lives near the bridge when it went down she rushed to the scene and in no time was in the water you're concerned about something snagging you and dragging your line underneath life-threatening dangers from below and above at one point a pillar high in the air began to wobble it was starting to move a little bit it was causing some of the concrete to crumble and they evacuated everybody out from underneath it but you'll hear it from every first responder they take the risk to save lives

while it's a rescue we go full out if it's a rescue effort everyone's in there doing the best they can you just kind of go in and do it you don't think about it much till afterwards and it's only then when they realize it's not a place that i'd care to go to again that is for sure and you know this job doesn't get any easier as divers begin searching the water upriver now working into the currents the risks just go up but you can bet they'll be back at it again in the morning john brad thanks chopper 5 giving us our best vantage point over the past hours looking down on the broken bridge and the cars are tossed around like toys today abc news anchor charles gibson flew in chopper 5 talking with us sharing his observations some of which we've all been remarking about how complete strangers jumped in to help those stranded hurt and scared very struck at how sobered everyone around here is by what has happened ever since 2001 there has been a little bit more

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there has been a little bit more softness about the business of living because of what happened it just it just brings home to you that when you drive through the lincoln tunnel or when you go over the golden gate bridge or when you put your kid on a school bus and send them to school or when you drive over a bridge that it's just a little bit of an act of courage and it brings it brings home also the fragility of life uh i don't mean to be too cosmic about this but it really has had that effect in new york city and i wouldn't be surprised if you find that to be true here it is an impressive effect all of the rubble that is below the helicopter there and we have learned some concerning details about the bridge revealed by the minnesota department of transportation the 35w bridge we were reported was first declared structurally deficient in 1990 according to the mndot and inspectors found the first cracks in the approach spanned the year it opened now that was 40 years ago mndot is already working on a contract to rebuild the bridge which before the collapse was not slated for a replacement until 2020. one of the questions we've been hearing a lot about what other bridges should we be concerned about our investigative unit spent the day pouring over thousands of federal inspection records christy peale in saint paul near the lafayette bridge over the mississippi river christie well cindy inspectors give all bridges what they call a sufficiency rating and i'm like you said near the lafayette bridge here behind me in saint paul and this bridge like the other bridges in the state have been given that rating it's a measurement of how well the bridge does its job and more importantly whether its structure can carry the traffic on a scale of one to one to a hundred the bridge that collapsed as we've been saying rated a fifty that's the same rating as the bridge you're looking at right now and it's a better rating than several others we found around the metro 35 e just north of 94 in st paul a bridge spanning railroad tracks gets a 53 rating just north of that a bridge over cayuga

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just north of that a bridge over cayuga street rates just 41. south of the scene of wednesday's collapse and three more structurally deficient bridges the bridge over central avenue in minneapolis rates of 42 the one over 60th street gets a 56 rating and the one over 76th street rates at 44. mndot's currently replacing the 494 bridge across the mississippi near newport that bridge had scored a 38. the worst we found in the metro is also under reconstruction the bridge where the crosstown intersects 35w scored a dismal 35. inspectors use the term structurally deficient to describe bridges of concern now we checked over 13 thousand bridges in minnesota and of those get this we found more than one thousand that have been rated structurally deficient reporting live in saint paul christy peel 5 eyewitness news powerful combination of words there structurally deficient in the next few days three highway bridges in minnesota will undergo emergency inspections specifically these bridges they are in saint cloud sandstone and the bridge over to osceola wisconsin they must be inspected here's a closer look at the highway 23 bridge over the mississippi and saint cloud all three bridges have the same trust design that's the bridge in saint cloud they have the same design as a 35w bridge the governor wants to ensure the same tragedy doesn't happen again mandatory inspections now are ordered nationwide many people are asking who's at fault we sat down with legal analyst ron rosenbaum to get a lawyer's eye view of this bridge collapse and it's going to be i mean this is massive litigation this is a mass disaster you've got scores of people hurt badly we don't even yet know how many people are killed

we've got all kinds of people that we don't even know about that have been hurt it's going to be a pretty big piece of litigation and you start from the assumption bridges don't fall down without somebody doing something wrong

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doing something wrong rosenbaum says there are a number of entities that will be looked at in the legal process from the feds to the state to local contractors the national transportation safety board started its investigation last night into the collapse but governor pawlenty has called for a separate and parallel investigation he's asked mndot to hire an independent contractor the same contractor that investigated the tunnel collapse in boston's big dig project to look into this case details on both investigations will be coming out in the months and the years to come and more attention from washington d.c as first lady laura bush tours the collapse site tomorrow she was scheduled to be in the twin cities for the summer meeting of the republican national committee but the first lady instead will tour the bridge damage and then visit with victims meanwhile the white house tells us president bush will make a visit to minneapolis on saturday to see for himself the scene we in the federal government must respond and respond robustly to help the people there not only recover but to make sure that lifeline of activity that bridge gets rebuilt as quickly as possible meantime the start of the federal funding the trickle coming in a five million dollar emergency check from the government to help with rebuilding now it's going to go immediately to the long-term planning for traffic detours minnesota lawmakers also in washington to secure even more funds i think it will cost substantially more than 250 million dollars rebuild that bridge and and to and to uh uh not only it's not only the bridge but it's the approaches on either side for the bridge but we have to start somewhere uh we have to start somewhere and 250 million dollars is a starting figure congressman overstar said he hopes to push the emergency funding bill through before congress goes on august vacation on the set with us right now bob mcnainy

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on the set with us right now bob mcnainy have been covering the story from the air and chopper five in fact in fact starting before dawn he flew about 13 hours today over over the 35w bridge site if you don't know about a sword of our go guy when something bad happens unfortunately you're the guy to go you've seen a lot of major disasters your thoughts tonight yeah absolutely you know this one it's something new and something different it ranks right up there with some of the worst things that i've seen and i've covered major hurricanes major plane crashes it's not the largest loss of life and it is not the largest disaster in scope by any means but it strikes you we spent 12 13 hours in the chopper today and each time i looked down it seemed new to me it was shocking to me you know we expect hurricanes to get bigger we expect tornadoes to get stronger and we expect terrorists to get bolder but we don't expect a bridge to fall down in the middle of the city one thing the national transportation safety board was very excited about was that they have obtained video of the crash itself you're pretty familiar with these folks very legitimate sign of progress absolutely it was uncharacteristically optimistic usually they just collect the facts and say this is what we have they don't qualify they don't quantify they just say here's what we have but today the chairman was very optimistic i was surprised frankly by that optimism because this is a very very early moment in the investigation aside from the dramatic video bob that news outlets are running all over the world why do you think this is resonating so much with people around the world that we've all talked to uh in the last 24 hours well i think part of it is it happened right in the middle of a city it can happen anywhere it's not a hurricane that won't happen in minnesota it's not a plane crash that you may not be on that airplane it could happen it is the road that you travel every day and everyone can relate to that from london to los angeles to chicago to miami to minnesota that's it it is the highway that people take all over the united states absolutely all right bob thanks a lot who doesn't drive over a bridge right and who doesn't drive on interstate 35 at some point here in minnesota absolutely thanks bob yep well this image gives you this image the images we've shown you have given you a sense of what's out there and fortunately for the crews that were working recovery today the weather was

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working recovery today the weather was good we had the threat of rain last night in the middle of all of this that they dodged that too they did dodge that today was a very quiet day eerily quiet in fact in the weather department the only new news in terms of the weather the drought it has expanded so i'll start there and show you this was last week and you'll notice the bright orange where the twin cities metro is included in the severe drought now we'll fast forward to this week and once you see this map you'll notice that the extent of the drought has pushed all the way into western minnesota all the way south into southwestern minnesota so we are hurting for rain still sky max 5 not going to give us any help you'll notice it is sweeping clean throughout the state of minnesota as well as westernmost wisconsin in terms of temperatures right now weatherbug coming in with 77 saint paul 72 in elk river and our official reading after a high of 89 earlier today is at 76 with a light northwest wind and it's a very comfortable humidity with dew points only in the 40s notice it's cooler in st cloud and rochester already down into the 60s some spots making it into the 40s and 50s for overnight lows so high pressure in control dry weather again for any recovery efforts that are expected to resume and then a change there is the potential of seeing not just rain but perhaps some heavy soaking rain this is as we head into saturday potential of perhaps more than an inch in some location so stay tuned for information on that overnight tonight down to around 60 or so and then on friday temperatures warming up to around 87 that'll be just about like it was today with lots of sunshine all around here's that weekend forecast the best possibility of rain coming in on saturday maybe an isolated storm or rumble of thunder on sunday and then monday and tuesday perhaps some spotty showers and storms as temperatures look like they'll be back up into the 80s we want to continue giving our viewers advice here or at least a little heads up on traffic delays this was a picture from earlier today this is what the bridge collapse caused in terms of a traffic backup on washington avenue this afternoon as

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on washington avenue this afternoon as commuters were heading home for the day more than a little bit of extra traffic there now a bit of good news so now 35w southbound is now open until stinson avenue down to stinson avenue however on 35w northbound still routed over to interstate 94 and then to 280 280 has been turned into a temporary interstate all the stop lights have been turned off and there are some exits that are not available our viewers tonight playing a big role in helping us cover the story sharing pictures taken moments after the collapse this new home video today shot by a family after just moments after the bridge gave way still ahead more of these dramatic pictures as one witness describes the chaos unfolding i just got on the phone and i was calling people and crying before she did that she paused for 60 seconds and it probably saved her life and then she rushed in to get help amid the fear and the confusion and then a look at what's coming up next as nightline continues national coverage of the collapse hello john and cindy coming up only on nightline new details on the deadly bridge collapse as family members agonize over loved ones who remain unaccounted for four families receive the devastating news they feared plus a hard look at just what happened why did no one heed years of warnings the bridge was structurally deficient that's right after 5 eyewitness news at 10. and as i was climbing up the up the bridge i saw like a clouded dust and i heard this loud noise and then our car started falling falling just dropping straight down and we we hit pavement and then the bridge gave away again and my car went almost vertical where the front the nose of the car was pointed down right and we hit the pavement a second time and then it did it one more time and then we came to a rest on top of another car and

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came to a rest on top of another car and i felt terribly helpless because on the northbound side all of those cars were gone there wasn't anybody there it's it's so fast you can't do anything you have no reaction time because you're not realizing what's happening to you and all of a sudden it's happened just a few of the hundreds of calls that poured into radio stations this morning from witnesses and people who were on the 35w bridge when it went down now in addition to the phone calls that have been coming into all the media outlets around town you've been sharing video specifically with us one family capturing the aftermath from their balcony just after feeling the bridge collapse when our building started vibrating we thought maybe it was an earthquake since we moved out from california but we knew that didn't really happen here in

minnesota so our next thought was maybe a giant plane flying by we ran to the windows and just saw the cars falling into the river basically what did that look like it was terrifying it was just like something out of the movies you know you stand there outside your window and the bridge is buckling and the cars are sliding into the water and then one of the semis exploded um and it was one of those situations where you kind of wished i said you were a superhero and you could go out and reach out and put your hands underneath the bridge but all we could do was stand and watch kind of in terror and these guys as well watching everything happen so scary what was it like for you guys what do you remember from it um that there but the first time i saw it there was smoke like really big smoke coming out from from the ground and and then my auntie came out and she like and my auntie and uncle came out and they're like very terrified and saying what was that what did you think sean same thing as her scary how many i know you weren't keeping count but how many cars trucks do you think plunged into the water probably about a dozen from the north side were slipping in right away when the concrete became really steep i'm not sure about from the south side

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i'm not sure about from the south side but miraculously in the middle the car stayed on the section of bridge and people got out of their cars and were helping each other and they were they were okay so you saw some people make it out okay what was it like when you saw people walking away from it all uh well we just couldn't imagine the shock that they must have felt you know i mean the cars apparently bounced i mean because the bridge dropped quite a bit and then the cars bounced and then people actually came out of it now we appreciate you sending us your video and your pictures but there's a group out there that needs it more and that would be the national transportation safety board they are asking us to ask you to turn over copies of your pictures of your video they may need them to reconstruct what happened here and you can call them at their hotline 866-328-6347-866-328-6347 although we've been contacted by some of you tonight and we've been told that that line does get busy so you may have to be patient to try it john another amazing story coming out of the school bus and you know the bus i'm talking about the youth group manager seriously injured in the collapse still managed to be a hero her fiance tells us julie graves is in a lot of pain right now she fell into the stairwell of the bus breaking her back and her feet despite that she managed to get up and help the children off the bus before collapsing herself pulling glass out she got almost 100 stitches and she's got both of her legs and splints and her right arm and a splint i know it was incredibly painful for her but the entire time she was asking about the kids julie graves has a lot of recovering to do her fiance says he wants her well so he can marry her moments after the bridge collapsed right next to her this woman this woman captured in this video frantically dialed 9-1-1 she shared that video with us today along with her amazing story here's ryan kibby i could hear all the screams and i saw like the kids on the bus holding their seats up holding onto their seats right in front of them

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right in front of them and then it was down and i saw it coming down out of the sky 24 year old lynn lubin highland park native details the horrifying scene frantically calling 9-1-1 within seconds after the bridge collapsed i just got on the phone and i was calling people and crying and other people came down the river and they were crying because there wasn't anything you could do and there was it's pretty devastating just moments after the bridge collapsed lubin says she rushed to the scene straight to the stranded school bus that carried dozens of kids all survivors the kids were getting off the bus immediately those adults on that bus got those kids off that bus so quick they were so very good about that the chaperones they should be people don't usually move that fast and then the guys in the car in front of me were lifting them and taking them off the bridge lubin says she had trouble describing the sound the bridge made as she watched it collapse in horror i've never heard that sound i would equate it to maybe something like a train or maybe a tornado lubin says she had trouble sleeping last night unable to release the terrible images she witnessed last night after it happened and i knew i couldn't go in the river and save people i just prayed for everyone who was out there in the river and on the bridges stuck in their cars i just prayed for all the people ryan kibby 5 eyewitness news all right coming up next now we're going to go to live nightline and be sure to start your morning early for the latest updates our coverage continuing tomorrow starting at 4 30 a.m and we'll be back again in just a half

hour with one final update of the night now we leave you with sights and sounds from today for now good night the bridge collapsed i can't describe it surreal doesn't even begin to disturbing does not begin to describe the whole bridge just gave out we don't know where her car is we can't locate him she's a fighter always a fighter [Music] it's obviously a horrific incident that takes your breath away and and sinks your heart and i saw it coming

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and sinks your heart and i saw it coming down out of the sky and the people on there screaming that was the most noise it was making is the people screaming and then it was silence [Music] i don't think anybody quite expected the scene that we encountered upon arrival it was utter chaos at that time the bridge was smoking dust in the air we've had a difficult time trying to reach those vehicles there's extremely low visibility it's pretty common in the river environment [Music] tonight on nightline disaster on the river new details on the deadly bridge collapse as family members anxiously await news of loved ones who are still unaccounted for the death toll almost certain to rise we're live from minneapolis with the latest how and why years of warnings that the bridge was structurally deficient why wasn't anything done and why are so many of our bridges in such terrible shape and horror caught on camera this woman seen on tape one of the first to call 9-1-1 as the bridge came crashing down her harrowing story in her own words from the global resources of abc news with terry moran in washington martin beshear and cynthia mcfadden in new york city this is nightline august 2nd 2007. good evening tonight new details on yesterday's rush hour disaster on the river four people are confirmed to have died in this tragedy but officials indicate that the number is almost certain to

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that the number is almost certain to rise as vehicles still remain pinned by debris or completely submerged in the mississippi and yet recovery efforts were halted this afternoon and divers stopped searching because of the weakening structure nightline's john donvan is in minnesota tonight and he joins us live john martin as you say the it's a believe that the death toll is going to rise and there's an uncertainty about the number for the simple fact that what's out there in the water is a highway crushing a lot of cars they can't actually look under those sections of highway to see how many victims may actually be down there a staggering fact that in itself explains how in a lot of ways this community still has a long way to go in measuring the impact and the scope of this disaster and that in many ways these are still the very early days 24 hours since a bridge vanished into a river here and yet on all the other highways around minneapolis this evening it seemed most drivers had already gone back to the default option which is to trust trust that when you're up there on a bridge or an overpass it will get you to the other side and yet there it was in broad daylight today this asphalt wound that says so bridges do fall down or as someone scrawled on a wall not far from the scene chicken little was right which probably was not meant to be funny but it does go to how crazy it seems that this happened out of nowhere or as ron engebretson put it today and we we just think it's a simple uh bridge failure i don't know why that happened but i traveled over that bridge for over 30 years when i worked in downtown minneapolis and uh you know if you think about that but you never think it's going to be real anger bretson who did many interviews today with stunning composure feared all day that his wife had gone down with the bridge last night she left work for home on that route in the evening and had been missing ever since anger bretson passed some of the day at this holiday inn

00:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2160s)

this holiday inn where authorities set aside space for families waiting for information most of whom asked to remain private with at least 20 cars believed to be submerged in the mississippi some as yet unreached by divers authorities are calling this a recovery effort not a rescue which means they expect to recover bodies not survivors and yet right now i'm holding on to the hope that she's a jane doe out there in the hospital or some area that are in an air pocket that maybe a rescue worker can get to her those are things i'm trying to hold on to that is called hope and rick stanek who as sheriff is overseeing a large part of the recovery process says when he met with the families today he saw a lot of way now i know what they wanted some

semblance of hope and somebody to give them some information and so they came down to provide them some tidbits of information mostly hope that we're doing everything we can in the recovery side of this operation when you say hope it's not really hope at this point that anybody would still be alive you know they all have some bit of hope i don't think any one of them in there has given up by any means over overnight from from what we were briefing yesterday not a lot has changed basically we're in a hold mode but in fact across the morning and through the afternoon the effort now is on recovery officials anxious to keep what information they had flowing we work one section at a time slowly deliberately thoroughly and then move on from there just did not have that much information to offer we move slower and more deliberately we want to make sure and search everywhere recovery of course will mean something else entirely to all those people who rode the collapse down and walked away from this all those vehicles left behind like litter and you see the school bus crushed against the railing and what was it like for the kids on that bus this is the voice of a ten-year-old girl who was on the bus

00:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2280s)

who was on the bus trying to reach her mother getting only an answering machine today kaylee swift was with her mom while a lot of other kids on that bus were gathering with their parents for free counseling offered at this community center they all belonged to lunch was in the gym but the counseling was behind closed doors several of them here i am right here i met a 16 year old named el fago vensis who's got a summer job here helping to manage the gym he wanted me to know how close-knit this little community is he went to camp here himself back in the day but in the hallway it was heartbreaking to see such a little kid as anthony segura he's only five knowing that he had been on that bus has anthony have you talked with your mom about it a little bit what did he tell you just that the bridge fell and he keeps asking why why did it happen and he's terrified of bridges now yeah i don't blame him and everybody is everybody okay in this picture yeah everybody gets out that's right huh talking to el faygo again he was also on that bus and though he's one of the big kids almost a man you watch his hands and you can see he's still figuring out how to live with having lived through it all of a sudden everything just collapsed and we were like in the air i don't know how they told us that we were 30 feet in the air so so when you say you felt like the bus was in the air you really mean that the bus was the bridge went out and the bus was just out there for several seconds and all of a sudden it just landed like hard i looked around now i see a smoke and when they when i figured out what was going on when i when i went out through the back i i looked across and i saw the whole bridge just miss it once you were on out of the bus you're still on the bridge and then just regular people passing by started

00:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2400s)

regular people passing by started passing the kids down off on onto the land yeah i know everybody was scared and it was just something that no one thought would never happen it was like a nightmare there i thought i was dreaming at first it's like what if we left like five minutes later we could have been in that middle of the bridge and so it's like hard when you think about it when it just happens in a matter of seconds did you sleep last night not as much as i slept but not like i couldn't sleep like i kept waking up you know because i was like still thinking about it still was in my mind my mind was running crazy and so now it is dark again and el faygo says he thinks he will finally get some sleep tonight as out on the water on the mississippi the recovery continues and martin a sad coda to the story that ron ed brenson was telling us you know the man who's talking about maybe his wife found an air pocket uh late today he was informed that his wife's body had been recovered sherry uh anger bredson had two children but unfortunately her death was confirmed and after watching he was one of those guys who actually liked to work it out by talking to television cameras after a while you feel you get to know him and you're rooting for him so everybody felt quite devastated when he got the word that his wife had not survived as he'd hoped john that's a tragic story of of a family's loss but have you discovered anything about those who are still missing well there are there are others still missing and we were talking tonight with uh friends of one of them there's a woman whose daughter and she and her daughter are missing we're going to put up a photo of them because this is a photo put up by her community she's an immigrant from somalia and this is being circulated by the somali justice advocacy center in the

hope that this woman whose name is sadia sahal and her daughter hannah perhaps her in a hospital somewhere the idea being to put the word out to the community if you see her call us putting out the kind of car she was driving that it was a toyota highlander a white one and the hope is that maybe she's okay

00:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2521s)

that maybe she's okay at least alive but not okay but in a hospital somewhere because frankly when when you're just down there and not identified nobody really knows where you are and that again martin an indication of the scope of the complication of resolving what happened who's hurt who's missing who's alive and who's dead martin john don van in minneapolis thank you so much and just ahead on nightline a look at just how the bridge collapsed and why nothing was done to reinforce it sooner the question on so many of our minds tonight can the tragedy that befell the twin cities yesterday happen in our hometown how safe is the bridge that i cross every day as i commute to work in fact a disturbing proportion of america's six hundred thousand bridges received exactly the same assessment as the one that collapsed yesterday structurally deficient his nightline's chris bury this is the very moment when in a matter of only seconds the big steel bridge buckles these images captured on a camera from the army corps of engineers may provide the first critical clues the center span went down first and then dragged the thicker parts with it this afternoon drexel university engineering professor joseph martin studied the tape and drew some preliminary conclusions it would appear it was a brittle rapid failure which for a steel bridge would probably be due to some sort of a fatigue crack maybe with corrosion that eventually snapped now comes the hard investigative work anything is possible and we will not rule anything out we will not rule anything out what we begin to do is rule things in

00:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2641s)

things in the national transportation safety board is just starting to piece together this tragic puzzle the specialty of forensic engineers like dan cuoco it's a combination of a detective and a medical examiner it's like conducting an autopsy in a way in recent years annual inspections had noted assorted cracks corrosion and fatigue but none so serious as to label the bridge unsafe in 2005 the minnesota department of transportation found the bridge quote structurally deficient inspectors gave it a rating of 50 on a scale of zero to one hundred what that rating of 50 means is that the bridge should be repaired should perhaps be considered for replacement at some point in the future it was by no means an indication that this bridge was not safe but now those detectives the forensic engineers will pour over the original design plans they'll consider that construction project underway when the bridge collapsed they'll look for telltale signs of overload and fatigue you can usually determine by looking at the surface whether or not it's a it's a what we call a brittle fracture which means it was subjected to some sort of an overload condition or it's a fatigue type failure and they'll ask tough questions about whether the 40 year old bridge could safely handle modern rush hour traffic averaging more than 140 000 cars and trucks a day so we're kind of off the chart as far as what we would expect the steel to be able to take that's one and two is it's been through 40 minnesota winters of expansion and contraction such catastrophic collapses are relatively rare in 1983 three people plunged to their deaths when a major bridge in connecticut gave way officials later faulted rust and corrosion other collapses have been blamed on earthquakes and shoddy construction perhaps the most famous one of all

00:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2761s)

perhaps the most famous one of all a staple of high school physics classes is the 1940 collapse of the tacoma narrows bridge in washington state it broke apart because of a strange harmony between the bridge and the wind the bridge has a certain natural frequency it's like if you pluck a violin string it it'll vibrate and that frequency of the wind happened to be the same as the natural frequency of the bridge so what would happen is that every time the bridge would deflect as part of its frequency the wind would would add to it but more recent infrastructure problems like those steam pipe explosions in new york last month raise a larger question is the country too often putting off critical maintenance a point minnesota lawmakers from both parties underlined today we have to make make a more robust investment that we're doing now looking to the future this is yet another wake-up call for the nation's infrastructure we have to answer the question as to

why this bridge fell down when bridges in america shouldn't fall down in this nation of nearly 600 000 bridges that is hardly reassuring the latest report card from the american society of civil engineers found 27 of those bridges deficient or obsolete in american cities the number is even worse nearly two in every three bridges is considered too old or too weak this is chris bury for nightline in washington our thanks to chris bury and we're joined now by minnesota governor tim pawlenty at the entrance to the bridge governor thank you for joining us martin thank you for having me as my colleague chris bury just reported studies found the bridge to be structurally deficient but made a recommendation against replacing it you said earlier today that you'd be asking tough questions about and i'm quoting you whether that was an appropriate recommendation

00:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=2881s)

was an appropriate recommendation but with respect wasn't your question answered yesterday when the bridge collapsed that recommendation was badly and categorically wrong wasn't it yes what we have here martin is uh inspections in 2005 2006 and a report in 2007 that indicated there were problems with the bridge but not a recommendation to immediately close it or an indication that collapse or failure was imminent in fact they were talking about replacement or major fixes significantly down the road obviously the question that needs to get answered here and investigated is was that why was that framed up that way and should they have made a different call what is your reaction what do you think of that call that recommendation that there should be that the bridge should continue it shouldn't be closed that it shouldn't be replaced yes you should keep in mind martin uh that there are 80 000 or so bridges in the united states with the same designation they're all essentially in operation and most of them do not get indications that they're you know in imminent danger it doesn't mean because you're in this category that it's necessarily unsafe but in this case obviously there was failure and now we're going to have to go back and find out why that occurred one engineering expert has said that any bridge that's been through 40 minnesota winters and experienced a vast increase in traffic is almost bound to be weakened in some way when you add this to the fact that the bridge was given a rating of only 50 out of 100 by inspectors is it fair to say that the authorities have perhaps been negligent or simply turned a blind eye in the hope that nothing like this would happen well that's exactly what the investigation by the ntsb and the firm that we've hired will look into and answer again just because it falls in this category doesn't necessarily mean that it's unsafe however those reports do now indicate and i had a chance to learn more and review more today indicate concerns with this bridge and so the question is why wasn't there a recommendation for

00:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3000s)

is why wasn't there a recommendation for closure or more immediate action and that is the question i can assure you we will get to the bottom of it and we will drive this to conclusion but we have to let the investigation and review process work how much money do you actually need to rebuild this bridge to an appropriate standard yes well that's uh being designed and developed right now but the rough estimate and i mean just rough is somewhere between 150 and 350 million dollars and that's probably include some other things as well governor tim pawlenty thank you and once again we extend our prayerful good wishes to the families and the community affected by this tragedy thank you martin those prayers and sentiments are appreciated and when we come back the woman who made one of the first 911 calls relays her harrowing experience nightline continues from new york city with martin beshear [Music] investigators said today that initial questions about just how the bridge collapsed were answered in part by these remarkable images of the very moment when it buckled and fell into the river taken by an army corps of engineers surveillance camera and then a faint figure is seen running by a woman crossing the frame she was calling 911 and she described what happened to abc affiliate kstp in her own words i was driving along and i heard this very loud clacking sound and i looked up in the air and i saw the 35w bridge coming down and i could hear all the screams and i saw like the kids on the bus holding their seats up holding onto their seats right in front of them and then it was down it was really quiet then and there was no people moving hardly and i didn't see anyone i just saw cars sitting there was like it had happened a while ago and it was

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3120s)

was the silence was really pretty eerie it was eerie [Music] you said you saw the kids you went actually down there and you could see them right in front of me yeah the kids were getting off the bus immediately those adults on that bus got those kids off that bus so quick they were so very good about that the chaperones they should be people don't usually move that fast and then the guys in the car in front of me were lifting them and taking them off the bridge i just couldn't believe anything like that could ever happen it's unfathomable that you know that doesn't happen last night after it happened and i knew i couldn't go in the river and save people i just prayed for everyone who was out there in the river and on the bridges stuck in their cars i just prayed for all the people [Music] a firsthand account of an absolute catastrophe we'll be right back abc news nightline brought to you by geico [Music] for four families tonight it is a painful and traumatic time as they grieve the loss of a loved one and yet for other families there's still only the experience of anxiety as they wait for news of their relatives still described as missing they continue to hope and to pray and if you're interested in finding out how you might be able to help please visit the nightline page at our website abcnews.com and good morning america we'll have more on this story tomorrow but that's our report for tonight we'll leave you now with some images of the scene in minneapolis i'm martin beshear for all of us at abc news good night america

[00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3240s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3240s)

[Music] this is the story of how the powerful 270 horsepower v6 roomy three row seating with second row captain's chairs extra cargo room and everything else in the newly redesigned fuel-efficient toyota highlander called mark his brother patrick the kids and their wave runners off to the lake with ease the all-new highlander starts at a great price at your toyota dealer now [Music] i'm a fine arts major and i made this in honor of my favorite food sliders this is the exact spatula from white castle i made a replica and i made this an art class at farmington eye right for my memory from a refrigerator box got an a got a giant hunger try our brand new hot and spicy buffalo chicken bites slider thanks your family like to play games between these two families i can't wait to see the fight in the parking lot afterwards are you quick on your feet why didn't i think of that do you want a chance to win prizes you got it call the contest search phone number for your chance to audition for the family feud coming this fall to 5 eyewitness news if your family's chosen you'll audition at valleyfair amusement park get into the game with family feud coming this fall to 5 eyewitness news leah mclean 5 eyewitness news this is 5 eyewitness news we in the federal government must [Applause] [Music]

[00:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3360s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3360s)

[Music] respond she's a fighter my wife's a fighter and respond robustly to help the people there unbelievable tragedy today met with overwhelming response this is obviously a horrific incident that takes your breath away and sinks your heart a major artery into downtown minneapolis gone that's there's a car on fire right there it's it's crushed the entire span of 35 w collapses into the river i swear i saw people in the air there wasn't anything you could do [Music] good evening again everyone unbelievable tragedy today but we have a brief update now on the 35 w bridge collapse and i'm john mason search crews tell us they will be out on the river starting tomorrow at 6 30 a.m the hennepin county sheriff's department believes eight people are still missing but the department of public safety tells us that number could still be much higher 20 to 30 people is what they're telling us the official death toll remains at four the names of the victims julia blackhawk patrick holmes artemio trinidad menya and sherry angridson our beth jed has been talking with people who knew some of those victims she is live now in minneapolis with more on their stories beth cindy tonight families amongst us are now feeling the icy cold reality of what's happened left with holes in their lives and children ripped from their parents whoever i spoke to they somehow knew or tammy one way or another and that's the reason for this large gathering at new york plaza produce on lake street where he worked a tribute to artemio trinidad maina husband and father of four always very happy always looking at everything in a positive in a good way patrick holmes also a husband and father in mounds view he leaves behind a four-year-old and six-year-old and a wife who says he died immediately when the bridge collapsed confirmed last

[00:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3481s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3481s)

the bridge collapsed confirmed last night as soon as we got down in the classroom like everybody started bowling and she told us that julie had died liz ewing's beauty school teacher told her about her classmate today 32-year-old julia blackhawk leaves behind two sons she died trying to get home to savage she was loved everybody in the class liked her and 60-year-old sheri lou ingebretzen of shoreview her family had hoped against hope that her fighting spirit would pull her through this disaster but her injuries were just too severe and of course we can expect more heartbreaking stories to come as those who are missing are eventually found reporting live in minneapolis beth jet 5 eyewitness news we want to update you on the detours that are taking place because of the collapse of the bridge 35w southbound now it's open to stinson avenue traffic on 35w northbound still being routed to i-94 and then over to 280 that has been turned into a temporary interstate the stoplights have been turned off now from the start of the events of yesterday our rod simon was on the scene and what he found was real heroes in action we wanted to check in with him one more time before we go tonight what a dramatic emotional 36 hours this has been demonstrates what it's all about unbelievable tragedy everywhere you turn people helping each other get through it i actually came face to face with minnesotans just finishing what they thought was a regular work day than finding themselves in harm's way but somehow someway not only did they find their way to safety but they saved others in the mayhem i spent time with new brighton native and former titino grace wrestler gary babino we ran into each other minutes after the collapse he was there to save kids on this bus while his mind was on his family that's the first thing i thought about when i when i figured out the bridge is going down that's the first thing that went through my mind i'd oh my oh my god there's i have a baby coming in two weeks you know i i can't die please don't let me die and when i was going down i thought that there's a good chance that i might die it was like it was like a prayer was just going through my mind god you know i don't want to die you know just there i had an angel looking down

01:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k18-1EpJH8w&t=3601s)

just there i had an angel looking down on me and gary babino's happy ending is that he will be a dad doesn't know the sex of the baby but in two weeks he'll be changing diapers and he's an angel too big a lot to admire about that young man indeed thanks ron we will keep gathering information overnight you can bet on that you can count on us for more coverage starting tomorrow morning at 4 30 get any overnight developments and updates on traffic right here on 5 eyewitness news thanks for joining us yes we want to thank you for staying with us all day today for our coverage and we will see you again tomorrow but remember 5 eyewitness news morning starting at 4 30 a.m have a good night [Music] you

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